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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated in the following listing of all claims:

1. – 9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) <u>A method of securing a data transaction across a security barrier, the method comprising:</u>

> <u>validating a request message encoded in a structured request language against a predefined request message specification therefor;</u>

> <u>transmitting the validated request message across the security barrier;</u>

> <u>validating a response message encoded in a structured response language against a predefined response message specification therefor, the response message corresponding to the validated request; and</u>

> <u>transmitting the validated response message across the security barrier,</u>

> ~~A method as in claim 1,~~

> wherein the request and the response message validatings are respectively performed at first and second secure data brokers on opposing sides of the security barrier; and

> wherein the validated request and response message transmissions are between the first and second secure data brokers.

11. (Currently Amended) <u>A method of securing a data transaction across a security barrier, the method comprising:</u>

> <u>validating a request message encoded in a structured request language against a predefined request message specification therefor;</u>

> <u>transmitting the validated request message across the security barrier;</u>

> <u>validating a response message encoded in a structured response language against a predefined response message specification therefor, the response message corresponding to the validated request; and</u>

> <u>transmitting the validated response message across the security barrier,</u>

> ~~A method as in claim 1,~~ wherein the request message validating includes:

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parsing the request message using Data Type Definitions (DTDs) encoding a hierarchy of

valid tag-value pairs in accordance with syntax of a valid request message; and

if the request message is not successfully parsed, forwarding a response message without

transmission of the request message across the security barrier.

12. (Currently Amended) <u>A method of securing a data transaction across a security</u>

<u>barrier, the method comprising:</u>

<u>validating a request message encoded in a structured request language against a</u>

<u>predefined request message specification therefor;</u>

<u>transmitting the validated request message across the security barrier;</u>

<u>validating a response message encoded in a structured response language against a</u>

<u>predefined response message specification therefor, the response message</u>

<u>corresponding to the validated request; and</u>

<u>transmitting the validated response message across the security barrier,</u>

A method as in claim 1, wherein the response message validating includes:

parsing the response message using Data Type Definitions (DTDs) encoding a hierarchy

of tag-value pairs in accordance with syntax of a valid response message.

13. – 16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) In a networked computing environment, a method of securing access to

an information resource behind a security barrier, the method comprising:

predefining a request message specification corresponding to a structured request

language;

formatting an access request in accordance with the structured request language;

supplying the formatted access request to a first intermediary, the intermediary validating

the formatted access request in accordance with the request message specification;

and

forwarding the validated access request across the security barrier.

18. (Original) A method as in claim 17, further comprising:

accessing the information resource in accordance with the validated access request.

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19. (Original) A method as in claim 17, further comprising:

receiving, at an application proxy, an access request targeting the information resource;
      and

performing the access request formatting at the application proxy.

20. (Original) A method as in claim 17, further comprising:

predefining a response message specification corresponding to a structured response
      language;

formatting a response to the access request in accordance with the structured language;

supplying the formatted response to a second intermediary, the second intermediary
      validating the formatted response in accordance with the response message
      specification; and

forwarding a validated response across the security barrier.

21. (Original) A method as in claim 20, further comprising:

accessing the information resource in accordance with an access request from a client;
      and

supplying the client with a response in accordance with the validated response.

22. (Original) In a networked computing environment, a method of securing access to
an information resource behind a security barrier, the method comprising:

predefining a response message specification corresponding to a structured response
      language;

formatting a response to an access request targeting the information resource, the
      formatted response being in accordance with the structured response language;

supplying the formatted response to an intermediary, the intermediary validating the
      formatted response in accordance with the response message specification; and

forwarding a validated response across the security barrier.

23. (Original) A method as in claim 22, further comprising:

accessing the information resource in accordance with the access request from a client;

supplying the client with a response in accordance with the validated response.

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24. (Previously Presented) An information security system comprising:

a security barrier;

a proxy for an information resource, the proxy and the information resource on opposing first and second sides, respectively, of the security barrier;

a data broker on the first side of the security barrier, wherein, in response to an access request targeting the information resource, the data broker validates a request message encoded in a structured request language against a predefined request message specification therefor and forwards only validated request messages across the security barrier.

25. (Original) An information security system as in claim 24, further comprising:

a second data broker on the second side of the security barrier, wherein, in response to an access targeting the information resource, the second data broker validates a response message against a predefined response message specification and forwards only validated response messages across the security barrier.

26. (Original) An information security system as in claim 24, further comprising:

the information resource.

27. – 29. (Canceled)

30. (Original) A computer program product encoded in computer readable media, the computer program product comprising:

data broker code and parser code executable on a first network server separated from an information resource by a security barrier;

the data broker code including instructions executable as a first instance thereof to receive access requests in a structured language corresponding to a predefined request message specification and to forward validated ones of the access requests across the security barrier toward the information resource; and

the parser code including instructions executable as a first instance thereof to validate the received access requests against the predefined request message specification.

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31. (Original) The computer program product of claim 30, further comprising:
an encoding of the predefined request message specification.

32. (Original) The computer program product of claim 30,
wherein the data broker code and parser code are also executable on a second network
      server separated from a client application by the security barrier;
wherein the data broker code includes instructions executable as a second instance
      thereof to receive responses in a structured language corresponding to a
      predefined response message specification and to forward validated ones of the
      responses across the security barrier toward the client application; and
wherein the parser code includes instructions executable as a second instance thereof to
      validate the received responses against the predefined response message
      specification.

33. (Original) The computer program product of claim 32, further comprising:
an encoding of the predefined response message specification.

34. (Original) The computer program product of claim 30, further comprising:
application proxy code including instructions executable to format the access requests in
      accordance with the structured language corresponding to the predefined request
      message specification.

35. (Original) The computer program product of claim 30, encoded by or transmitted in
at least one computer readable medium selected from the set of a disk, tape or other magnetic,
optical, or electronic storage medium and a network, wireline, wireless or other communications
medium.

36. – 37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the structured request
language includes a markup language.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the markup language includes eXtensible markup languge.

40. (Previously Presented) The information security system of claim 24 wherein the structured request language includes a markup language.

41. (Previously Presented) The information security system of claim 40 wherein the markup language includes eXtensible markup language.